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ATTN: SEATTLE MEDIA POINTS

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WASHINGTON MEDICAID PROGRAM KICKS OFF
HIPAA TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PROVIDERS IN SEATTLE JULY 21

SEATTLE – The Medical Assistance Administration of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will begin a series of provider training forums around the state on July 21 in Seattle. The training is aimed at community health-care providers who need Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) training to file claims and other transactions with Medicaid after upcoming computer system changes this fall.

The training, which is free, will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 17001 Pacific Highway South, and will include four sessions in Seattle on Monday and Tuesday, July 21 and 22. The curriculum includes:

- How electronic claims will be paid after the HIPAA deadline in October.
- How transactions will occur after the deadline.
- Basic EDI techniques and forms.

The four-hour training sessions will be conducted by ACS EDI Gateway, Inc., of Tallahassee, Fla., which is working with MAA on the state's conversion of its existing Medicaid systems under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

> **HIPAA forums:** The four-hour sessions will be held on the following dates:
> **Seattle**, July 21-22, 8 a.m-noon, 1-5 p.m.
> **Mount Vernon**, July 23, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
> **Tacoma**, July 24, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.
> **Olympia**, July 25, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Port Angeles**, July 28, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Aberdeen**, July 29, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Vancouver**, July 30, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Tri-Cities**, Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.
> **Yakima**, Aug. 4, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Wenatchee**, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-noon.
> **Spokane**, Aug. 7, 8 a.m.-noon.
> *Exact locations listed below.*

The HIPAA law will bring many changes to the U.S. health-care information system, mainly by standardizing the way electronic health-care information is handled and setting safeguards to make sure that confidential health-care records remain private and secure in the computer age.

Under the law, the coding and transaction changes are due to be implemented in October of this year. They have prompted MAA to make changes in the state's billing/claims forms, to implement hardware and software changes to its billing system (Medicaid Management Information System, or MMIS), and to convert hundreds of state-unique codes to match the new national standards.

Although the changeover will be daunting, the outcome will be one that helps providers and health plans, sparing them future administrative expenses and streamlining payment systems.

Several training sections will be held in a number of the communities, giving providers and members of their office staffs a choice of morning or afternoon sessions.

Other topics during the training sessions will include:

- A review of the HIPAA law and the components of Administrative Simplification, detailing each transaction with its purpose, use, and type of data elements encountered in each.
- Basics of electronic data interchange with ACS EDI Gateway, Inc.
- The enrollment process of becoming a submitter, the community outreach initiatives, and services that ACS EDI Gateway, Inc., performs for its customers.
- Coming innovations in electronic claim submission and payments that will provide you with an expanded access to critical business information.

> **HIPAA's three major changes:**
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> ▶ **Transactions:** HIPAA is standardizing the codes and billing/claims forms used by health-care providers and payers. The new codes and claims forms will apply nationwide.
> ▶ **Privacy:** HIPAA requires every entity involved in exchanging health-care information to review its privacy safeguards and make sure that information will not be misused or released inappropriately.
> ▶ **Security:** Just finalized this year, this rule sets down standards and specifications for health-care computer systems, making sure they cannot be breached by those who should not have access to confidential medical records.

Here are the specific locations of the training sessions. Registration is not required:

▶ **Seattle** (four sessions available), Monday-Tuesday, July 21-22, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m., each day, Radisson Hotel, 17001 Pacific Highway South.
▶ **Mount Vernon** (one session), Wednesday, July 23, 1-5 p.m., Best Western Motel, 2300 Market St.
▶ **Tacoma** (two sessions), Thursday, July 24, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, 1320 Broadway Plaza.
▶ **Olympia** (one session), Friday, July 25, 8 a.m.-noon, Capitol Campus, OB-2 Auditorium, 1115 Washington St. SE.
▶ **Port Angeles** (one session), Monday, July 28, 8 a.m.-noon, Peninsula College, 1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.
▶ **Aberdeen** (one session), Tuesday, July 29, 8a.m.-noon, Aberdeen High School, 212 3rd St.
▶ **Vancouver** (one session), Wednesday, July 30, 8 a.m.-noon, Hudson Bay High School, 1206 E. Reserve St.
▶ **Tri-Cities** (two sessions), Friday, Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m., Benton County P.U.D., 2721 W. 10th Ave.
▶ **Yakima** (one session), Monday, Aug. 4, 8 a.m.-noon, Doubletree Hotel, 507 N. 1st St.
▶ **Wenatchee** (one session), Tuesday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-noon, Eagles Lodge, 1510 9th St.
▶ **Spokane** (one session), Thursday, Aug. 7, 8 a.m.-noon, Spokane Convention Center, W. 334 Spokane Falls Blvd.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For technical information, Companion Guides and details about EDI enrollment and testing, go to http://www.acs-gcro.com/Medicaid_Accounts/medicaid_accounts.htm . For other information regarding the Washington State DSHS HIPAA Project, go to: http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/dshshipaa .

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